



IN BRIEF...

Sida's environmental co-operation in South-East Europe

Many countries in South-East Europe suffers from serious environmental consequences from the recent conflicts, further aggravated by a long period of neglect and mismanagement of natural resources.

Environmental quality and ecologically sustainable development are key challenges and requirements for enabling peace, stability and economic development in the region. The region's ecosystems, soils and water-courses are threatened from past and present pollution. Emissions are high despite the low level of economic and industrial development. Government agencies need to strengthen political and institutional capacity to address environmental problems and enforce regulations. Municipalities need capacity to respond to the needs of the citizens for access to water, waste removal and heating. Increased environmental awareness and consideration are needed in private and public sectors and in society as a whole.

The main aim of the Swedish development cooperation with South-East Europe is poverty reduction and European integration through the EU Stabilisation and Association process (SAp). Sida's interventions in the region should be pro-poor and help bring about equitable and sustainable development, and address social and gender issues.

These summary guidelines address environment as an area of cooperation. Sida's overall approach is that all sectors of society should integrate and mainstream environmental aspects. Sida's environmental cooperation aim to link regional and national environmental reforms to improvements and sustainable development in local communities. The environmental guidelines complement the Swedish country strategies for development cooperation and should be coherent with these.

Targeted areas for support are: Environmental policy development and capacity building

- Overall reform and development process should be strengthened by integrating sustainable development and environment protection;
- Capacity building of environmental administration and authorities (in order to develop policy, adopt and implement legislation and international agreements, and to agree and cooperate within the region);

- Development of environmental assessment, monitoring and reporting structures for government agencies;
- Support to implementation of national environmental priorities;
- Increased environmental awareness and knowledge at higher education institutions;
- Capacity building in form of regional training programmes related to European environmental standards;
- Strengthening of regional cooperation agreements related to transboundary resources.

Environmental protection – maintenance of ecosystems (and their functions)

- Strengthening of national and local environment authorities, removal of environmental threats and sound management of ecosystems;
- Capacity building for management and maintenance, assessment and monitoring of sensitive forest, mountain, river, lake and marine ecosystems.

Environmental infrastructure and technology

- Support to investments in water and wastewater, waste management and heating, aiming at reforms of the municipal service sector and to reduced emissions. Support may include feasibility studies, business and organisational development, project implementation support, and investments leading to reduced pollution;
- Support to cleaner production technologies and management in industry, through capacity building for technology assessment, energy efficiency, environmental and industrial policy, data management, health and safety, environmental management systems, and knowledge dissemination.

Environmental improvements in local communities/municipalities

- Support demand-driven environmental improvements where local communities prioritise, decide and share the costs for infrastructure improvements, and take responsibility for operation and maintenance;

- Efforts for physical planning and improved access to environmental services in urban areas, through participatory and transparent planning processes.

Requirements for Sida support are

- Adequate and transparent processes with ownership, commitment and participation of the local partner;
- Sustainability to be ensured by linking environmental improvements with institutional reforms
- For infrastructure improvements that environmental impacts should be validated and proposed investments affordable for users;
- Realistic financing of proposed investments and Sida's funding additional to local contributions and/or external loan financing.

Sida does not support

- Disperse and small projects and interventions not linked to ongoing activities where Sida is active;
- Institutions with external consultancy services that are not clearly related to capacity building within the targeted institution;

- Infrastructure improvements that do not address institutional aspects.

Sida's resources involve

- Programming and coordination within the framework of country strategies for Swedish development cooperation;
- Flexible instruments: Grant and credit financing, co-funding, cooperation with international organisations, government institutions, NGOs;
- Field representation in Belgrade, Pristina, Sarajevo, Skopje, Tirana and Zagreb.

The complete environmental guidelines can be acquired from Sida.

For further information:

helen.holm@sida.se or

magdalena.svensson@foreign.ministry.se

Halving poverty by 2015 is one of the greatest challenges of our time, requiring cooperation and sustainability. The partner countries are responsible for their own development. Sida provides resources and develops knowledge and expertise, making the world a richer place.



SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY

SE-105 25 Stockholm Sweden
Phone: +46 (0)8 698 50 00
Fax: +46 (0)8 698 56 15
info@sida.se, www.sida.se